

**MINUTES OF THE FRANKLIN SELECTBOARD
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand, Brooks Sturtevant, Andy Godin, Ed Rainville and Sara Rainville, Assistant Town Clerk.

Guests: Kyle Lothian, Dave Benion, Hugh Gates and Kim Gates-Maynard.

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., pledge of allegiance was said.

Agenda amendments: None

Public Comments:

Kyle Lothian spoke about issues with the new weed harvester. It seems to be under powered and the weeds are not staying on the boat once cut; everything seems to overheat after about an hour of use. Yvon has been in contact with the vendor and Subaru about the engine, it's possible that the machine is becoming vapor locked; someone from Franklin Rental will be coming to look at the engine. Kyle was thanked and exited the meeting.

Dave Benion would like to replace the now broken door handle at the Town Hall; he has put a temporary knob on until he can purchase a new one and have it keyed the same as the deadbolt. The select board appreciates Dave's willingness to purchase and replace the knob; they have asked him to submit his receipt(s) to the Town Clerk's office for reimbursement. Dave was thanked and exited the meeting.

Minutes:

Yvon/Ed made the motion to approve the July 15, 2015 minutes as written. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Yvon/Ed made the motion to approve the July 21, 2015 minutes as written. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Highway Department:

- **Pigeon Hill Culvert:** Project bids were due August 4, 2015 by 3:30 to the Town Clerk's Office; Munson Earth Moving was the only bid submitted to the Town Clerk's Office. The select board would like to rebid the project, they would like the Town Clerk to post in the paper with a bid due date of August 19, 2015 12:00 p.m., also add to the posting that site visits can be made by appointment. Town Clerk's Office will notify Munson of rebid.
- **Colton Road/Stanley Road Intersection:** Howard advised he has spoken to Jim Marshall about a site visit and he is waiting for his opinion. Board will review at next meeting.
- **Pager contract:** The board discussed the highway department no longer using their pagers; the select board would like the Town Clerk's Office to cancel the existing pager agreement.
- **Morses Line speed limit:** NRPC does not have the completed traffic study results, results are expected be given to the Town Clerk for the August 19th select board meeting.
- **Cargill Salt:** Proposed contract from Cargill for salt 2015-2016 winter season \$80.79 per ton for approximately 160 tons was discussed. Board also discussed a liquid mixture of salt & chloride. Ed/Andy made the motion to approve the Cargill salt contract for 2015-2016 season, \$80.79 per ton for approximately 160 tons. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0; contract signed by Peter, board chair.
- **Sand Shed:** Howard noted that rain runs right through the sand shed, the board feels that closing in both ends will eliminate this problem. Andy will get quotes for end coverings.
- **Better Back Roads Grant:** The Town received this grant in the amount of \$10,000 for ditch work on a section of Gallup Road by Albert Gagne's. Motion made by Brooks/Andy to approve/sign grant agreement. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0; grant agreement signed by Peter, board chair.
- **VTrans Emergency Grant:** The emergency grant for the Pidgeon Hill culvert replacement has been received. Ed/Yvon made the motion to approve/sign emergency grant agreement, Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0; grant agreement signed by Peter, board chair.
- **Spare Driver:** Yvon stated that Jake Dandurand needs to have a pre-employment drug screen done before he can work for the Town, Town Clerk's Office has been working on this and will update board at next meeting.

Town Clerk Concerns:

- **HS-122 fees:** HS-122 forms filed after April 15, 2015 by residents receive a late fee/penalty; the board approved waiving the penalty for 2014 tax year. Yvon/Brooks made the motion to waive the late filing fee on HS-122 filers for 2015 tax year. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0. Town Clerk will update late filers in tax system.
- **2015 Tax Rates:** Proposed tax rates as prepared by Town Clerk/Treasurer, Lisa Larivee, residential rate \$1.5055 and non-residential rate \$1.7526; Ed/Yvon made the motion to set the 2015 tax rates, residential rate \$1.5055 and non-residential rate \$1.7526, Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0.
- **Town Hall Grant:** Sara noted that more work can be done at the Town Hall under the current grant that included the entry way roof and exterior drainage work. Suggestions that qualify through the grant are: rain gutters, new entry way door (ramp entrance) and interior entry way ceiling replacement. Board would like Town Clerk's Office to post bid in the paper for above items, bidder can bid on all or partial items, bid due August 19, 2015 12:00 p.m. Ed will get Lisa the measurements to put in bid posting.

Brooks/Yvon made the motion to pay Guilmette Handyman Service's the balance of his contract for the drainage work completed; vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0. Town Clerk's Office will send a check for \$1000.

Kim Gates-Maynard and Hugh Gates entered the meeting.

Old Business:

- **Park & Ride Closure:** Peter gave an update on the closure, the most recent letter was received July 30, 2015 from Wayne Davis at VTrans stating the Town is in violation of the grant agreement and the Town needs to repay the grant funds of \$41,250 plus interest or find another solution to the closure. Kim stated that the Park & Ride was open for about two years before the court issued its decision in August 2011 on the shared ROW and the Park & Ride was posted as closed at that time. Hugh gave the board history on the project and court proceedings that followed. Hugh always felt that the grant funding for the project was in jeopardy. Hugh and Kim suggested keeping a dialogue open with FHI in regards to them purchasing the parking lot. Kim felt that the board should respond to the State's letter with time frame/information in which parking lot was open to the public. Kim & Hugh were thanked and they exited the meeting.
- **Personal Policy:** All the changes have been made per the select board's request and attorney's advice, Yvon/Brooks made the motion to approve the Personnel Policy as written; vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0.

New Business:

- **Water District Rates:** Peter stated that the water commissioners have proposed a rate increase for the January 1, 2016 bill (July –December 2015 usage) of \$50 per unit, total bill would be \$150 per unit. Ed/Yvon made the motion to approve the rate increase from \$100 per unit to \$150 per unit effective January 1, 2016 bill. Vote taken, all in favor, motion passed 5-0.
- **Thank you letter:** Letter drafted to thank St. Onge for his assistance with the new weed harvester delivery, all members in favor of sending letter, letter signed by Peter, board chair.

Selectboard folder:

- HOWMARS net metered solar project
- VLCT claims cost detail
- Weed harvester July time sheets from Delbert & Andrew Cook

Member Concerns:

-Ed updated the board on the library entry pillars work; they have been taken down and Tim Hopkins is assisting in the repairs. Ed also noted that the bricks behind pillars should be remortared as well as the bricks by the fuel tank fill pipe.

-Ed will research Park & Ride Grant and report back to the board at the August 19th meeting.

-Brooks & Yvon talked more about the weed harvester and possible solutions to current problems with the machine

-Yvon felt that a response should be sent to Wayne Davis about the status of his letter on the Park & Ride closure; Ed will work with the Town Clerk's Office on a response and send it out.

-Andy stated that the cracks have been filled on Browns Corner and a great job was done by Demag's.

-Yvon thanked Ed for transporting the old weed harvester to St. Albans Bay, its new home.

Next regular select board meeting will be August 19th at 7:00 pm.

Next water commissioner meeting will be August 10th at 6:00 p.m.
Brooks/Yvon made a motion to adjourn at 10:07 p.m. All members voted in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Rainville, Assistant Town Clerk
August 10, 2015

These minutes are not official until approved at the Select board's next regular meeting.
These minutes were approved at the August 19, 2015 meeting